



# Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 29 NO 1

SPRING 2015

## Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



### Board of Supervisors



INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

## 71st Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2015  
Dinner Will Be Served at 6:30 p.m.

Outstanding Farmer

Poster Contest

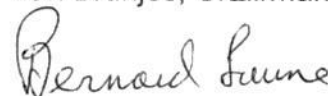
Knights of Columbus Hall  
Highway 50 & Clearview Drive  
Union, MO


Entertainment


Attendance Prizes


No Reservations Are Necessary!

  
Dan Brunjes, Chairman

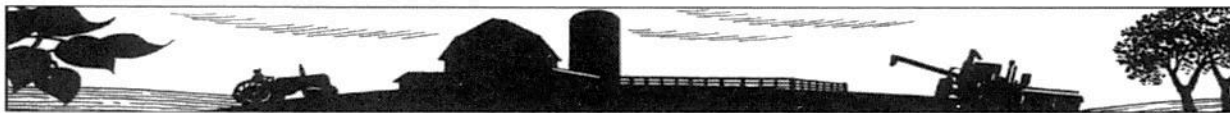
  
Bernard Laune, Vice-Chairman

  
Carl Danz, Treasurer

  
John Helling, Member

  
Matthew Herring, Secretary

**SECTION  
OMITTED**



## STATE COST SHARE ASSISTANCE

The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District focus on seven out of eight resource concerns to control soil erosion and protect water quality on agricultural land. Cost share practices are available in the following categories:

**Sheet, Rill and Gully Erosion:** is the unwanted removal of soil from the land surface or through incised channels by the action of rainfall and runoff. If you see problems like this on your farm, you could: establish a good vegetative cover to stabilize the soil; build terraces to reduce the erosive force of water; use a no-till system; plant trees and shrubs at the edge of fields to help with wind erosion; build a pond to catch sediment; develop diversions to direct rainwater; and plant sod-forming grasses to efficiently transport rainfall.

**Sensitive Areas:** is the area of agricultural land where current management has impacted erosion, surface water and ground water. For the protection of water quality in streams, you can: plant grass buffers or woody species along the edges of crop fields or below cropland to trap runoff; plant trees or shrubs to reduce wind erosion; and exclude livestock from streams. For the protection of groundwater, you can: establish buffers or exclusion around sinkholes; create spring collection points for livestock use; and fill and seal abandoned wells.

**Woodland Erosion:** is caused by the removal of soil or vegetation through livestock trampling or improper tree harvesting. To protect woodlands and water from the impacts of livestock or recover an already damaged area, you can: plant trees and shrubs; install fence to exclude livestock; ensure that timber harvest operations use proper construction of logging roads and stream crossings; and correct and control gully erosion through proper timber harvest practices.

**Nutrient and Pest Management:** The main concern in this resource concern is the runoff from improper nutrient and pest management practices can affect water quality. To prevent excessive chemical runoff, you can: adopt new management techniques and/or technologies for applying commercial fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide; properly use manure as a plant nutrient source; and move excess manure from areas saturated with nutrients to land where they are needed.

**Animal Waste Management:** The improper management of animal waste can affect both water and air quality. To protect the quality of water and air on your land, you can collect, control and manage your agricultural waste, manure and litter; safely dispose of livestock and poultry carcasses; and construct a composting facility to break down animal waste to be used to improve soil fertility and crop production.

**Grazing Management:** The steady use of an area by livestock can cause erosion problems and affect water quality. You can make the best use of soil and water resources by: improving the vegetative cover on pastures; and developing a planned grazing system that may include developing water sources and water distribution, fencing, fencing to construct paddocks, lime to manage the pH of the soil and the interseeding of legumes.

**Cover Crops:** The planting of cover crops is not to harvest but to control erosion & weeds, improve soil health, maintain organic matter, reduce compaction, increase water infiltration, recycle plant nutrients, provide habitat for beneficial microorganisms and increase plant diversity.

*State Cost Share funds available for FY16*

### **Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District FY16 Cost Share Allocation (beginning July 1, 2015)**

<u>Resource Concern</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Animal Waste	\$ 25,000.00
Grazing Management	\$ 14,250.00
Nutrient & Pest	\$ 6,250.00
Sensitive Areas	\$ 24,189.00
Sheet, Rill, & Gully	\$ 66,337.00
Cover Crops	\$ 4,800.00
Woodland Erosion	\$ 15,750.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$156,576.00</b>

**Call the office and the technical staff will help you get on your way  
to improving your farm through conservation practices.**



# Equipment For Rent

## GREAT PLAINS 7' NO-TILL DRILL with NATIVE WARM-SEASON GRASS BOX

Drill #1 located at Harrawood Equipment Co., Leslie 573-259-4634  
Drill #2 located at Franklin County SWCD office, Union 636-583-2303  
Rental Fee: \$9/acre in county, \$10/acre out of county 10 acre minimum



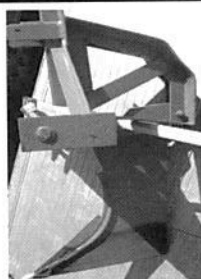
## STRAW MULCHER for square bales mounted on trailer

Located at the Franklin County SWCD office, Union 636-583-2303  
extension 112 for Stephen or 101 for Lori  
Rental Fee: \$35/half day, \$50/full day, \$75/weekend



## ROOT PLOW

Located at the Franklin County SWCD office,  
Union 636-583-2303  
extension 112 for Stephen or 101 for Lori  
Rental Fee: \$40/full day



## PRESCRIBED BURN EQUIPMENT

Located at the Franklin County SWCD office,  
Union 636-583-2303  
extension 112 for Stephen or 101 for Lori  
Rental Fee: \$20 with \$100 refundable deposit  
when items returned clean & working



## SPINNING JENNY

Located at the Franklin County SWCD office, Union 636-583-2303  
extension 112 for Stephen or 101 for Lori  
Rental Fee: \$15 deposit –  
refundable when returned in good condition – one week rental



## ATV SPRAYER

Located at the Franklin County SWCD office, Union 636-583-2303  
extension 112 for Stephen or 101 for Lori  
Rental Fee: \$20/full day, \$30/weekend with \$100 refundable deposit  
when item returned clean & working



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Daniel Brunjes, Chairman  
Bernard Laune, Vice Chairman  
Carl Danz, Treasurer  
Matthew Herring, Secretary  
John Helling, Member

**1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084**  
**636-583-2303 • 855-535-5203**

*The Franklin County Conservation District was organized in 1944 with a primary objective to solve soil and water conservation problems. The District, upon request, aids in planning and applying appropriate land use and conservation treatment measures.*

## OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

Lori Nowak, District Clerk, FCSWCD  
Stephen Sparks, District Technician, FCSWCD

Rhonda Davault, District Conservationist, NRCS  
Kervin Bryant, Soil Conservationist, NRCS  
Teresa Morris, Soil Conservationist, NRCS  
Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS

Lia Heppermann, Private Land Conservationist, MDC  
Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist



# **DO NOT DISTURB**

**If soil health is your goal, till as little as possible.**

Tillage can destroy soil organic matter and structure along with the habitat that soil organisms need. Tillage, especially during warmer months, reduces water infiltration, increases runoff and can make the soil less productive. Tillage disrupts the soil's natural biological cycles, damages the structure of the soil, and makes soil more susceptible to erosion.



## **Benefits of Reduced - Till/No-Till**

**Aiding in Plant Growth** – Soils managed with reduced/no-till for several years contain more organic matter and moisture for plant use. Healthy soils cycle crop nutrients, support root growth, absorb water and sequester carbon more efficiently.

**Reducing Soil Erosion** – Soil that is covered year-round with crops, crop residue, grass or cover crops is much less susceptible to erosion from wind and water. For cropping systems, practices like no-till keep soil undisturbed from harvest to planting.

**Saving Money** – Farmers can save money on fuel and labor by decreasing tillage. Improving nutrient cycling allows farmers to potentially reduce the amount of supplemental nutrients required to maintain yields, further reducing input costs.

**Providing Wildlife Habitat** – Crop residue, grass and cover crops provide food and escape for wildlife.

## **Production Inputs**

Soils can be disturbed if inputs are not applied properly, potentially disrupting the delicate relationship between plants and soil organisms. Soil Health Management Systems help minimize that potential disturbance, while maximizing nutrient cycling, which can lead to greater profitability for producers.

## **Livestock Grazing**

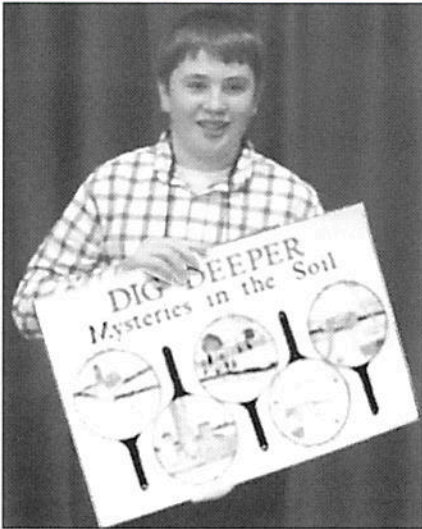
Improperly managed grazing can disturb the soil. There are several ways to graze livestock to reduce environmental impacts. For example, implementing a rotational grazing system instead of allowing livestock to continuously graze pasture allows pasture plants to rest and regrow.

## **Soil Health Management Systems**

Implementing Soil Health Management Systems can lead to increased organic matter, more soil organisms, reduced soil compaction and improved nutrient storage and cycling. As an added bonus, fully functioning, healthy soils absorb and retain more water, making them less susceptible to runoff and erosion. This means more water will be available for crops when they need it.

Soil Health Management Systems allow farmers to enjoy profits over time because they spend less on fuel and energy while benefiting from the higher crop yields resulting from improved soil conditions. Healthy soils also provide a buffer for precipitation extremes (too wet or too dry).

Contact your local NRCS office to learn more about Soil Health Management Systems and the technical and financial assistance available to help “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil.”



In December 2014, Caleb Ley was awarded the Missouri Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts' 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest award. Caleb was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. John Gildehaus when he won at the Franklin County level. Caleb's poster will be entered into the National Association of Conservation District contest representing Missouri. The poster theme was Dig Deeper – Mysteries in the Soil.

**Congratulations and we wish Caleb the Best of Luck at the National Level!**

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## *SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY*

The internship will focus on technical training of planning & design of conservation practices to reduce soil erosion & improve water quality and office operations. This position is available to Franklin County residents enrolled in a college, university, tech school, etc. from May 4 to August 28, 2015. Mail a resume to:  
Franklin County SWCD,  
Attn: Lori Nowak,  
1004 Vondera Avenue,  
Union, MO 63084  
or email [lori.nowak@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:lori.nowak@swcd.mo.gov) no later than March 6, 2015.

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SECTION  
OMITTED



## Area IV – KOCH VALLEY FARM



Our Area IV Outstanding Farmer award goes to Koch Valley Farm in Berger. Mark & Caroline purchased this over 100 acre farm in 1990 and have been in the spotlight. The farm has been featured in several publications and art shows – the Faith Church DVD, a textbook in Germany, a postcard for a 2012 drought conference in Kansas City, a painting named “Mending Fence” located in Hawthorne Inn in Labadie, several photographs displayed at the Kansas City art show and on TV.

Mark and Caroline applied for the USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program to help them improve their farm by installing a diversion, installing fence for woodland exclusion and cross fencing, seeding fields to improve pastureland, timber stand improvements, pest management and installing wildlife promoting practices. This farm has been home to hogs, bison, Limousine, Angus and Simmental cattle. Mark also rents several farms for additional pastureland for the rotation of cattle and to harvest corn, wheat, milo and soybeans and experiment with cover crops.

Mark and Caroline’s children were involved in 4-H, FFA and fair showing of the registered Limousine cattle. Now, Mark works full time at the custom spraying and seed business.

Congratulations to Koch Valley Farm and keep protecting our natural resources!



FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1004 Vondera Avenue  
Union, Missouri 63084-3132  
636-583-2303 • 1-800-583-3584  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 4

Union, MO 63084



## COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 10, 2015  
SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Thursday, March 19, 2015  
Annual Meeting  
6:30 p.m., KC Hall in Union

Tuesday, April 14, 2015  
SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Tuesday, May 12, 2015  
SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Monday, May 25, 2015  
USDA Service Center closed  
Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, June 9, 2015  
SWCD Regular Board Meeting  
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Call to confirm meeting date and times. All regular meetings are open to the public.



## Quarterly Quote

*“Before all else, we must learn how to  
use our earth wisely with the greatest  
possible benefits to all.”*

—Carleton Beals

# THANK YOU

The District Board appreciates the cooperation of the businesses that advertise in our newsletter and hope that our readers patronize these advertisers. The Board especially appreciates the financial assistance of the Franklin County Commission. Thanks also to our partners in conservation: NRCS, FSA, DNR, University Extension, MDC, Quail Forever. Assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District is available to all county residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, gender identity, reprisal, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation or individual's income. State Cost-Share funds are available for agriculture landowners that have active erosion and are approved to complete practices that solve the erosion problem and for practices that protect our water quality.